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Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2022 9:20 PM
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Subject: Strategic Update - 2022 02 10

STRATEGIC UPDATES FOR DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL

The information in this report is current to 2022-02-10 at 2100 hours.

Opposition to Public Health Measures

No incidents to report.

Open Source Reporting

Social media messaging indicates an Ontario-wide school walkout is being planned for February 11th, 2022 to protest mask mandates and public health restrictions. The level of organization and anticipated participation in the walkout is not currently known.

ASSESSMENT

Currently, there is no specific, identified threat and monitoring remains attuned to where ideologically motivated extremism may manifest among participants in or supporters of opposition activities.

Freedom Convoy 2022 (Ottawa)

Police Reporting

The following is a sample of police observations in the downtown core today:

- There were still many families with children walking around.
- A male was observed telling POU officers “you guys better watch yourselves, they’re going to ask you to do something stupid, you might want to take the day off tomorrow”.
- People are still delivering fuel in jerry cans.
- A group was passing out flyers providing instructions on how to deal with police, and what one should do when one gets arrested.

The Ottawa Police Service (OPS) reported approximately 100-150 protestors at Parliament Hill and surrounding area today. It is estimated that there are 500 trucks in the downtown core. OPS has observed about 25-30 trucks parked near Sir John A Macdonald parkway, a decrease since the arrival of trucks in that area yesterday. A large 53-foot trailer reportedly full of food is parked at the corner of Lyon and Queen Street.

Ottawa Police service reported that a total of 1550 tickets and 25 arrests have so far been made in relation to the convoy. 126 criminal investigations are active.

A small convoy of mostly passenger vehicles circulated and blocked roads near Ottawa International Airport today. The convoy was organized by a leadership figure within the convoy group that has previously used their social media following to disseminate conspiracy theories and COVID-19 misinformation. The organizer of the airport convoy indicated on social media the activity was sanctioned by convoy organizers. No significant disruption was reported in relation to the airport convoy.

Police observations noted continued tensions between protestors and police as well as the continued suspicion amongst protestors that police enforcement was imminent. Protestors continue to express the belief that police are attempting to deliberately provoke them to justify more aggressive enforcement tactics.

Open Source Reporting

Conspiracy theorists associated with the convoy continue to disseminate false information around the legality and intent of police enforcement.

A Freedom Convoy 2022 leadership figure who participates in the leadership press conferences stated in social media messaging “they are coming for us” and that the police have been ordered to clear the streets and will use all possible force. He also states that those arrested can sign a form to get out of custody, but then they have to leave city and not return. He states that for every truck driver who signs it, they will bring in three new drivers and makes a call for everyone to come to Ottawa. He then states that they need to “hold the line” as they have fractured the Liberal government fractured and the “provinces are falling”.

The new fundraiser on GiveSendGo has raised almost \$8.5 M USD and a Bitcoin wallet for the blockade contains over \$900,000 CAD. The ADOPT A TRUCKER account on GiveSendGo has raised almost \$676,000 CAD.

The Ontario Attorney General submitted a successful to the Superior Court of Justice seeking to prohibit the dissemination and use of funds associated with both of the GiveSendGo fundraisers on February 10, 2022 (today). The funds are now effectively frozen as a result of the court order, though the level of cooperation of GiveSendGo with legal authorities remains to be seen.

Ports of Entry - Windsor

Police Reporting

Protestors continue to block or attempt to block roadways at and around the Ambassador Bridge. Approximately 150-200 vehicles continue to occupy a 3-4km stretch of the southbound side of Huron Church Road. Most of the blockade vehicles are passenger vehicles with fewer than 6 tractor-trailers. Entry into Canada remains blocked. Entry into the U.S. is open. One lane remains open for emergency vehicles.

The protestors appear unorganized and attempts at negotiations with the group is difficult. The spokesperson for the protest has advised police that they will be protesting for an extended period of time and have no intention of moving until they hear from the government.

OPP and Waterloo Regional Police Service are assisting Windsor Police Service with traffic control and response. Windsor Police arrested one male for dangerous driving – no further detail was provided.

Open Source Reporting

Media reporting indicates auto industry groups, backed by the City of Windsor, are seeking an injunction to end the blockade. The main applicants for the injunction are the Automotive Parts Manufacturers' Association and Canadian Vehicle Manufacturers' Association, along with the City of Windsor and Chamber of Commerce as supportive interveners. The Ontario Superior Court acknowledged the injunction application and set a hearing for February 11, 2022 (tomorrow).

Ports of Entry – Sarnia

Police Reporting

Farm tractors remain in a makeshift camp outside of Sarnia at HWY 402 and Forest Road. HWY 402 westbound remains closed between Nauvoo and Oil Heritage. No protestors are currently at the Bluewater Bridge and traffic flow is normal.

Open Source Reporting

Social media messaging is promoting a convoy of US trucks that may block the border at Port Huron on February 12, 2022.

Toronto Demonstrations

Police Reporting

Police reporting noted minimal activity in the Queen's Park area today, with no issues to report.

The Toronto Police Service continues to collect intelligence in preparation for this coming weekend.

Other Potential Activity

Open Source Reporting

Local convoy actions are anticipated in other jurisdictions across the province, please see the updated event schedule for additional information.

Social media messaging has called for peaceful protests in other jurisdictions that have provided police personnel to Ottawa.

Media reporting indicates that commercial truck drivers in the US are planning to begin their own convoys.

Peace Bridge

Traffic volumes returned to normal at approximately 0300 hours. Social media information suggests that convoys from Stoney Creek and Niagara-on-the-Lake may attend the Peace Bridge on February 12, 2022.

Nipigon River Bridge

OPP reporting has identified potential convoys and protests in North West Region, including a potential protest at the Nipigon River Bridge. OPP continues to monitor.

Oxford County

Unconfirmed information indicates a protest is planned for February 12, 2022 affecting the on and off ramps of Highway 401 at Highway 59 and Highway 19.

Sault Ste. Marie

Unconfirmed information indicates a protest is planned to block international border crossings this weekend.

ASSESSMENT

Recent actions and statements by blockade organizers and supporters indicate the intent to create as much disruption as possible to transportation infrastructure as a pressure tactic on both government and police. Jurisdictions across the province should expect organized and spontaneous protests, convoys and blockades at critical transportation hubs such as roadways, railway stations, airports, maritime ports, and border points. Ongoing communication amongst all stakeholders across a range of jurisdictions will be critical to identifying and mitigating the effects of any such actions.

Protest organizers are attributing the lifting of restrictions in some provinces to their protests. This perceived success will likely result in a hardened resolve amongst the protestors and their supporters. Additionally, organizers have stated an intent to hold blockades in provinces that have not dropped COVID-19 related mandates; it is almost certain that this will occur.

The situation in Ottawa remains volatile and represents a public safety threat and an officer safety threat. Support actions across the province appear to be increasing. The events in Ottawa appear to have considerable support as measured by funding, logistics, participant numbers, and more recently the number ancillary actions which continue to increase. In this respect, the current blockade at the Windsor US-Canada border underscores the potential for major events to occur concomitantly which, in addition to placing a significant strain on law enforcement resources, leverages economic disruption as a means of applying pressure to the federal government.

The potential for conflict amongst individuals and groups with differing agendas at these protests persists, which could pose both a public safety and officer safety threat. At this juncture, there is no concrete, specific, or credible threat with regard to the Freedom Convoy protest and Operation BearHug 2.0 activity. However, the possibility that a lone actor or group of individuals could enact a physical threat with little or no warning cannot be excluded.

EVENT SCHEDULE

February 11, 2022

- **Sarnia: Tractor Convoy** - HWY 402 westbound Kerrwood exit (0600hrs). Organizers plan to block the highway until all mandates are lifted.
- **Kawartha Lakes: Rise Up Kawartha Lakes Convoy to Ottawa** – departing from Lindsay Square Mall every Friday until freedom is restored(0800hrs)
- **Ontario: School Walkout to Lift Mandates**
- **Hanover-Walkerton: Freedom Convoy** driving circular local loop (1800hrs)

February 12, 2022

- **Ottawa: Call for Freedom Rally** – Parliament Hill (no further details)
- **Toronto: Freedom Convoy Toronto Round Two** – Queens Park 2022-02-12 (1100hrs). Stating they will not leave this time until all mandate are lifted. Meeting at the following locations at 1000hrs:
 - o Vaughan Mills
 - o Yorkdale Mall
 - o Sherway Gardens
 - o Square One
- **Toronto: Mandate Freedom - Peaceful Assembly** – Queen's Park (1200hrs)
- **Hamilton: Protest at City Hall** (1400hrs)
- **Saint-Honoré-de-Shenley: Convoy to Ottawa** (0600hrs)
- **Montreal: Rally "Unis dans l'amour pour la liberté"** (1300hrs) – some participants will go to Ottawa
- **Kingston: Slow Roll** – HWY 38 carpool (1300hrs)
- **Niagara Falls: USA-Canada Convoys 2022** – Peace Bridge (1100hrs) – currently being organized only on the New York side of the border
- **Huntsville: Anti-Regulation Protest** – Huntsville Place Mall along Hwy 11 to Doe Lake Rd and return (1100hrs)
- **Haliburton: Haliburton Freedom Rally** (unconfirmed)

Bracebridge: Anti-Regulation Protest – memorial Park, to be joined by Huntsville convoy (no further details)

- **Lindsay: Rise Up Kawartha Lakes Freedom Skate and Protest** – Victoria Park (1300hrs – 1500hrs) every Saturday until freedom is restored
- **Tillsonburg: Oxford Freedom Convoy** – 400 Simcoe St. (1200 hrs). Estimating 500 vehicles (farm tractors, passenger vehicles and tractor trailers).
- **Hanover-Walkerton: Freedom Convoy** driving circular local loop (1800hrs)
- **London: Freedom Convoy #2 – 4350 Wellington Rd S Parking Lot (1400hrs meet; 1500hrs rollout. London: Local Convoy – Heading to Ambassador Bridge afterwards**

February 13, 2022

- **Ottawa: Blue Collar Convoy – 2022-02-13 starting at GRCT Park (btb RCGT Park, 302 Coventry Rd, Ottawa) two routes:**
 - o **East Route:** departing GRCT Park 0900hrs; stopping at the RA centre then to Parliament Hill
 - o **West Route:** departing Canadian Tire Centre, 1000 Palladium Drive, Ottawa (0900hrs) to Parliament Hill
- **Hanover-Walkerton: Freedom Convoy** driving circular local loop (1800hrs)

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